

Scandinavian Centre News



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APRIL, 1981

THORRABLOT 1981

"Heilsa Thorri haeverskur
Her af bordum
Hann er drengur hugrekkur
Hreysti fenginn aflramur."

With this toast to Thorri, proposed by Hafthor Gudmundsson of Iceland, the Nordurljos Thorrablot was officially underway. The evening began with Al and Martha Arnason and Ninna Campbell taking tickets. Guests were welcomed by them and also Freda Smith, Gudbjorg (Burky) Letourneau, June Parker and upon entering the banquet room by the host and hostess of the evening, Art and Vi Arnfinnson.



Host and hostess
Art and Vi Arnfinnson

presentations. Solli began the formal part of the program by describing the traditions associated with the Fjallkona. He then introduced the 1980 Alberta Fjallkona, June Parker, who had grown up in the same Icelandic community as Stephan G. Stephansson. She was escorted by the Honorary Consul of Iceland, Al Arnason, while background music of Fösturlandsins Freya was played by Burky Letourneau.

June related several ways that living in the same community as the great poet -- though years later -- had affected her life. She then introduced Jane McCracken, Research Officer for Alberta Culture, Historic Sites Service. Through her biography of Stephan G. and her talk on the restoration of his home, Jane provided the attentive audience with a greater insight into his life and work. Jane's choice selection of slides enhanced her excellent presentation. She briefly outlined a few of the topics where his ideas, although controversial at that time, would be more widely accepted today. To emphasize her point of view, she and the Fjallkona selected

passages from English translations of some of his best and well-known poetry. (e.g. "At Close of Day" and "Wheresoever You Travel").

PROGRAM CONCLUSION —

The Saga Singers, under the capable direction of Burky Letourneau and ably assisted by Solli, concluded the program with a selection of old Icelandic favourites.

Rosa Benediktson, youngest daughter of Stephan G., expressed her appreciation to the Society and the rest of the folk in attendance for the tribute they had paid to her father.

GRAND MARCH —

Dancers got off on the right foot by participating in the Grand March with the music provided by Bud's Combo. Thanks to Brinki Gudmundsson and Gestur Jacobson the celebrants were in good spirits and Oli Narfason, of Gimli, Man., added to the enjoyment with his own unique brand of entertainment during the intermission.

Kvold Kaffi (with Icelandic brown bread, rullupylsa, mysost, and kleiner) were served at midnight.

Our thanks to the ladies who prepared the Icelandic food, to Oli Narfason for bringing the skyr from Gimli, to Jens and his staff for the tasty meal, to those who participated in the program, to Al Arnason and his Thorrablot committee, and to Solli Sigurdson who directed the events of the evening in the finest tradition of Thorrablot.

GUESTS WELCOMED —

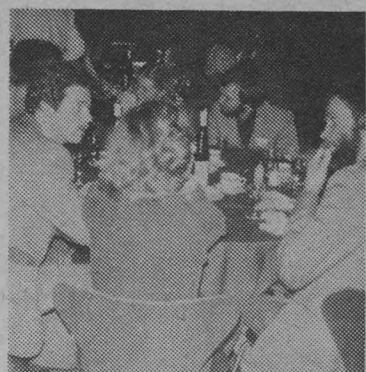
Some out-of-town guests included: Rosa Benediktson, Red Deer; Thorey and Les Greenham, Camrose; Olive and Gestur Jacobson, Wetaskiwin; Aldis and Doug Johannson, Nancy and Ed Swedberg, all from Calgary as well as the following four who are recent immigrants from Iceland: Gudrun Gudmundsdottir, Tom



Rullupylsa Rollers — June Parker, Margret Duncombe, John Duncombe, and Barbara Gerrand

Jonasson, Halla and Hjortur Hjortursson; from Saskatchewan - Helga and Bud Swedberg, Wynyard, Hulda and Skulli Therssteinsson, Regina; Kristbjorg Anderson, Foam Lake, and Thelma and Joe Saskiew, Maidstone; Rose and Oli Olsen, Kamloops, B.C.; Gwen and Oli Narfason, Gimli, Man.; Pauline and Magnus Johnson, London, Ont.; and the following are from Iceland who are currently in Edmonton, most of whom are students at the university: Bryna Gudmundsdottir and

Oskar Valdimarsson, Karitas Olafsdottir, Peri and Vidar Gudmundsson, Sigga and Hafthor Gudmundsson, Magnus Johannsson,



Icelanders' Table — Hafthor and Sigga Gudmundsson, John and Margret Duncombe, Oskar and Brynja Valdimarsson, Vidar and Peri Gudmundsson

Margret and John Duncombe. Margret and John have decided to become Edmontonians and are working for Syncrude. Welcome to you all!

"Now you know you have been to an Edmonton Thorrablot."...says S.S.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON

by June Parker

It is both an honour and a privilege to participate in this celebration tonight as your Fjallkona.

Lines of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time.

These words were taken from a poem by Longfellow because they so adequately describe the man who is recognized as being the greatest Icelandic poet since the Middle Ages, and who is being honoured here tonight, Stephan G. Stephansson.

PEOPLE NO. 1 RESOURCE —

What was it like to live in the same district as such a great man? This is what your Master of Ceremonies wanted to know. My first reply was that I was not THAT old. Stephansson's and my ancestors lived in Skagafirdi, and he and I both lived in the same Icelandic community here in Alberta: these we had in common, but our paths never crossed for he died in 1927 and I was not yet born. But after giving your question some serious thought, you were right Solli, very understanding of environmental effect on people, and very Icelandic! To Icelanders, their number one resource is people. So people, -neighbours near and far, good and bad, leaders, followers, in the community and beyond, -would be the number one topic of conversation, the same way energy is in the headlines today. One could not help but be affected by living in the same district as such a great man.

EACH INDIVIDUAL IMPORTANT —

My parents were both Icelandic, so this same idea carried on. As a child growing up I must have been exposed to such conversations

about people--being examples both good, and not so good. I don't remember their exact conversations, but I can remember the general feelings and attitudes my folks had, their high regard for humanity and the importance they placed on each individual. Stephan G. Stephansson was one. Yes, my life was, has been, affected or touched by the greatness of this man in many ways.

READING IMPORTANT —

Another Icelandic tradition carried on by my parents, and the importance of it stressed, was reading. Reading was a tool one could use for many purposes. The majority of the reading material on our book shelves and that which came into our house was Icelandic. We had Stephansson's Andvokur and the Icelandic papers and magazines that published his poems. Of course these were read and discussed often, not only for the content and enjoyment, but after all, they were the published works of a district man, a friend and neighbour. Just as the Manitoba Icelanders would know Cowen and Gutti, Alberta knew Stephansson. Listening to my father read Stephansson's poetry was the first definite effect he had upon my life.

POEMS READ —

In the evenings Dad would read aloud, in Icelandic of course, from Stephansson's volumes while Mother, with the help of my older brothers and sisters cleaned up the dishes, knit and shrunk socks, mended or did needlework, all the while listening, very much like a household of our forefolk in Iceland. I was one of the three

Continued on page 3

HERITAGE DAY — 1981

Already? you might ask. But it is not too early to start thinking about the annual event — HERITAGE DAYS in Hawrelak Park — the first weekend in August.

The Scandinavian Centre HERITAGE DAY Committee held their first meeting in January, when various activities such as demonstrations, entertainment and displays were discussed.

The Committee is interested in getting in contact with people who would like to be involved in this very interesting and exciting event. We need people to help out with displays, tents, etc., as well as to provide good ideas for activities on the stage — especially some children's activities such as small plays, skits, or folkdancing. In addition demonstrators in various crafts or arts related to our Scandinavian heritage are welcome.

Please help us and the Scandinavian groups to make our contribution to HERITAGE DAYS as successful as possible. You can contact any one of the following people:

Anneli Thurlin	478-9674	(Finnish Society)
Curtis Halldorson	466-2408	(Icelandic Society)
Tage Aaquist	475-3520	(Danish Society)
Astrid Hope	469-4747	(Sons of Norway)
Orla Holm	455-3938	(Nordic Society)
Beulah Hinton	466-5456	(Vasa Lodge Skandia)
Susanne Balslov	439-0950	(Chairman)

or come to our next meeting at the Scandinavian Centre on Monday, April 6th at 7:30 p.m.

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SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

ANNUAL MEETING —

63 shareholders attended the annual meeting held on March 17th at the Scandinavian Centre to hear the Directors' and Auditor's Reports and participate in the election of officers and a discussion on the new building.

Four new Directors were required, and Sig Sorenson, Selma Sorenson, Tom Pearson and Claus Jacobsen were elected; the first meeting of the new Board will take place on March 26th.

THE CENTRE —

We have been having a great deal of difficulty with semi-trailer trucks using our west entrance to turn around, or even to park on our property, that the entrance has been closed with a chain during times when no function is taking place, and it is necessary to use the west entrance. It is slightly inconvenient but it has solved our problem.

NEWSPAPER —

We are tremendously pleased to have received some marvellous material for this month's issue and thank Mrs. Magna Garstad and Mr. Aage Knusen for their articles. We

do hope to receive more along the same lines so that every paper can feature such interesting stories.

SHARES —

Shares are presently under review by the Board with a view to making a change. By motion of the annual meeting, therefore, no shares will be sold until a decision has been made in this respect.

BUILDING PROJECT —

The City of Edmonton has approved our application for the 5.04 acres located at 95 Street and 42 Avenue (Strathcona Industrial Park). Building plans were approved at the annual meeting and the Building Committee is proceeding with details. An intensive fund-raising drive will be organized in the very near future, and a committee is in the process of being formed.

HERITAGE DAYS —

Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the next meeting of this committee which will be held at the Scandinavian Centre on Monday, April 6, under the chairmanship of Susanne Balslov.

IRISH FETED AT GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting of Solglyt Lodge was held March 11th with a fair turnout. Astrid Hope was absent, as she was on her way to Australia with her mother to visit relatives.

During the meetings Sports Director Verner Steinbru reported on the successful Winter Games and Harv Haugen showed pictures taken at the Game of which anyone might obtain copies.

It was decided that the next meeting on Wednesday, April 8th, will be a wine and cheese party

with Norwegian Whist for entertainment.

The Syttende Mai fest is to be a gala affair at the Royal Glenora Club on May 15th; Ellsworth and Lois Halberg, Sig and Selma Sorenson, and Knut and Rose Svidal will host the extravaganza.

Gail and Doug Peterson hosted the evening's entertainment and lunch with open-face buns, sandwiches, and a large cake with green and white icing for the Irish; they also served Irish coffee.

SECURITY INSTRUCTION AT Torske Klubben

by Bob Burt

Over 80 members gathered March 3rd for a feed of fish and good fellowship.

Following the supper, Dennis Blackburn of the City Crime Prevention Branch presented several film clips on Burglary and How to Prevent It.

Dennis explained that the best protection against loss of property, savings or personal valuables is to have doors securely locked and windows latched. He further added that high bushes near the house are excellent hiding places for a burglar; these should be cut back so that such advantage cannot be

taken by intruders.

Car theft is on the upswing. Leaving cars unlocked, with the motor running, or with valuables visible are invitations to theft, loss of property and damage to the car.

Dennis answered the many questions by members concerning security. He also had on display several kinds of deadbolts, catches, lawn lights and safety devices, as well as alarms.

Ellsworth Halberg thanked the guest speaker for his enlightening talk and display.

The next meeting of Torske Klubben will be April 7th, at which time the guest speaker will be the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta.

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Please advise **The Scandinavian Centre News** as soon as possible of any change of address. Cut out your name and address from the front page and paste it in the space below, or print your old address. If you get your paper through another group other than being a shareholder, kindly mention this.

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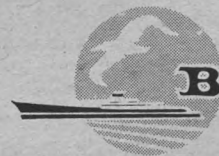
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THORRABLOT 1981

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lucky pre-schoolers to be able to sit at, or on Dad's knee and listen intently. Although I could not understand fully the meaning of each poem because of age and language barrier, I was still touched. I knew it was extremely meaningful to my father for he put such expression into each poem! I learned early not to insist on its meaning because poetic translation was not Dad's specialty. He would get so frustrated. He said there were no English words synonymous to the poetic beauty of the Icelandic language.

GREAT POET —

If asked about the man, Stephan G., Dad would reply, yes, Stephan G. was a man in his own right, recognized in his district as a leader, a good neighbour, a trusted friend, and in the Icelandic community here and in Iceland as a great poet, most deserving of the honours he received.

PRAIRIE FIRE —

Being interested in history as well as poetry, Dad was pleased that Stephansson recorded events for future generations. For an example—the prairie fire that swept through the Markerville district in the 1890's is only mentioned in the book GRUB AXE to GRAIN in the story of my aged & blind great grandmother being put in her rocking chair in the middle of a summer-fallow field so that she'd be safe, and the rest of the family would not have to worry about her as they fought the flames. Even though we have this picture in our mind, it is not as vivid as is the poem Stephan G. wrote about it, entitled THE PRAIRIE FIRE.

From heaven's high roof-beams,
a smoke-laden cloud seems
To hang o'er the earth in the
autumnal sky;
The points of the compass are lost
to the view as
Smoke-fog and fire bewilder
the eye.

Rainbow-like glowing,
the fire-wave is flowing,
Girdling the plain with a
gleaming red ring,
Through meadows it browses,
endangering houses
Against which it threatens
its fire-wall to fling.

Flame-tongues are flicking,
fire-prongs are licking,
Wasting the land in their
wind-blown flight;
Through greenwood roaring,
through birchwood soaring
The flames raise beacons of
towering light.

Come soot-blackened men
'gainst the fire-hordes then,
Life half-broken legions
that yet face the foe,
To team up their yoke and
plough through the smoke
Their fire-break furrows to
stem the fire's flow.

The prairie fire was truly an event that happened. No one could write so picturesquely had he not witnessed it. Of course, Stephansson wrote another three stanzas telling how we could and should use fire to get rid of the deadwood, not only in nature but also in our hearts and souls.

FLOOD FEARS —

I can also remember how concerned my parents were about the rising flood waters of the Medicine River (I believe in 1943). They were worried about the damage that would be done to the books which had been placed in a bow set into Stephansson's cairn. The concerns for these books were on an equal base to their concern for the damage to fields and flocks, herds and buildings.

As a teenager, I visited friends who were at the time renting the home of Stephan G.. The two teenage girls used his study as a bedroom. I recall how they would reverently touch his desk, pens, and holder. With teenagers of my own today, I am now more aware and appreciative of the respect and honour those girls gave the builder and one time owner of the house in which they lived.

REALIZATION OF HERITAGE —

It was during my revisitation to his home in 1975 when it became an Historic Site, that my life was af-

fectured most definitely by Stephansson's greatness. I was drawn to attending the occasion because of my childhood memories of his poetry. Through the program presented in honour of Stephan G., most of which was in Icelandic—the plays, songs, and the reciting of his poems by folk from Iceland as well as friends from Markerville, I felt a great bond with them even though there was still a language barrier. The invisible tie to my past created a greater realization of my heritage. It rekindled an interest into finding out more, and because of it, opened new doors and introduced me to new people.

Since then, I have joined Saga Singers and Nordurljos and enjoyed the fellowship of both. Had I not joined, I would have missed the opportunity to meet cousins from Iceland when they visited here, and to have been chosen to symbolize Iceland as your Fjallkona. I have had my Aettartala translated into English, and in researching my genealogy I have learned much of Iceland's history and my heritage. I have visited Iceland, not once but twice! All this and much more resulted because of my revisitation to Stephansson's home in 1975.

TREATED ROYALLY —

It was in Iceland that I felt another distinct effect that Stephansson's greatness had upon me. Can you imagine being honoured for no other reason than to have happened to be born and brought up in a certain place? This happened to me. Whenever and wherever, in answer to their questions, I told the folk in Iceland of my parents being homesteaders in Tindastoll and Hóla, now referred to as the Icelandic community of Markerville, I was treated so extra royally and with such great respect because it was the SAME DISTRICT as Stephan G.'s. They would immediately recite at least the first four lines of his most famous poem:-

Wheresoever you travel
You will keep as you tread
Every hue of your homeland
In your heart and your head.

They would ask so many questions about him and his surroundings. In response to descriptions of our great variety of scenery in Western Canada, they chose & quoted lines from his poetry which so eloquently described these very places.

Yes, my life was touched by living in the same district as Stephan G. Stephansson.

STEPHAN G.

*by Jane McCracken,
Research Officer, Alberta Culture*

I have been working on the Stephansson House project as a Research Officer for Alberta Culture, Historic Sites Service for more than two years and during that time have had the pleasure to work with both the Stephansson House Restoration Committee and the Icelandic community at Markerville. It has been, and I am sure will continue to be, a rewarding experience for me. I feel that, besides learning a great deal about Icelandic and Icelandic-Canadian culture, I have among other things, made some good friends, and learned some good recipes.

POET LAUREATE —

Tonight I shall be speaking to you about the Poet Laureate of Iceland, Stephan G. Stephansson, or to use the Icelandic name he himself preferred, Stephan G. He has also been called "the greatest poet of the western world," not just of Iceland, but of the western hemisphere, and was one of Canada's most prolific poets. During the 74 years he was alive, he produced enough poetry, most of it of the highest quality, to fill six volumes, which he entitled *Andvokur* (Sleepless or Wakeful Nights). Who, then, was this man? What were the passions which compelled him at night, while others slept, to rise from his bed to write his beloved verses? Was he unique, or was he representative of a transplanted culture?

PARENTS POOR —

Stefan Guxomundsson was born at the farm "Kirkuhóll" in northern Iceland in the sysla of Skagafjörður on 3 October 1853. His parents

were poor tenant farmers who could not afford to give their son a formal education, a fact that Stefan always regretted. Nevertheless, his parents taught him at home to read and write and instilled in him a great love and pride of his Icelandic heritage and language. He read every book in his family's small library many times. And it was not long before he developed an intense appreciation for the effect and power that words could have. Fascinated with language, Stefan worked diligently on his vocabulary, so that by the time he was an adult he had such a command of his mother tongue that he was nearly unequalled by any of his countrymen.

Versifying, too, was part of his upbringing. At night, his family like all Icelanders gathered around the fire to recite the ancient sagas and poems and to make a game of inventing new verses, or "rimur" as they were called. When he began to compose his first verses even Stephansson could not remember. One of the few poems to survive from his adolescence expounded on the theme of boredom created by laziness. His devotion to self-improvement and hard work remained with him throughout his life.

ICELAND HARSH & DIFFICULT —

His love for his country, though, was not reciprocated. Iceland was a harsh and difficult country to live in at that time. So, in 1873, 165 Icelanders, including Stefan now nearly twenty years of age and his family, decided to emigrate to the United States.

SETTLED FIRST IN WISCONSIN —

Stefan, with fifty other Icelanders, settled in a heavily forested area of Wisconsin. Here he had to learn to build with logs, and to plow and seed land, concepts that were entirely new to him. It was here, too, five years after his arrival that he and his first cousin, Helga Jonsdóttir were married. Then, in 1880, the whole Wisconsin settlement moved to North Dakota. The first years there were learning experiences, for farming the prairie was different again from farming in Wisconsin. But Stephan did learn to adapt, and by the mid-1880s was faring at least as well as his Icelandic neighbours. But by then the land boom had broken and Stephan was forced, like many homesteaders, to mortgage his farm to pay his debts.

HOMESTEAD IN CANADA —

Finally, in 1889, he decided to move once again, this time northwest to Canada. He took a homestead west of the Red Deer River in the Medicine River Valley near other Icelanders who had settled there a year earlier. He remained here for the next thirty-eight years of his life until his death in 1927. He raised a large family, built an attractive home and took an active role in community life. In Markerville, he served on the Hóla school board, was Justice of the Peace for the district, was instrumental in establishing a library, and served a number of years as secretary-treasurer for the creamery association.

NOT ALWAYS POPULAR —

Stephansson was not always a popular man with other west Icelanders. He had been attracted, while living in the United States, to the works of the Icelandic Lutheran Church, with its "ancient doctrines" as Stephan called them, lead him to reject the church and its messages of eternal damnation. In February 1888, he and seven others living in North Dakota formed the Icelandic Cultural Society. In its constitution, the Cultural Society stated that its objectives were "to support and promote culture and ethics . . . Instead, of church sectarianism, it seeks to promote humanitarianism and brotherhood; instead of unquestioning creeds, reasonable and unfettered research; instead of blind beliefs, independent conviction and instead of ignorance or prejudice, spiritual freedom and progress." The church, of course, was furious and charged the Cultural Society as being a "godless" society and Stephan G. as an anti-Christ. I do not believe, though, that Stephan was an atheist. It was just that his God was not the God preached by the church of his time. When listening

to poems such as "At Close of Day", I find it difficult to imagine Stephan G. as being anything other than a religious man.

At Close of Day
When sunny hills are draped
in velvet shadows
By summer night
And Lady moon hangs out
among the tree tops
Her crescent bright;
And when the welcome evening
breeze is cooling
My fevered brow
And all who toil rejoice
that blessed night time
Approaches now -

When out among the herds
the bells are tinkling
Now clear, now faint,
As in the woods a lonely bird
is voicing
His evening plaint;
The wandering breeze with
drowsy accept whispers
its melody,
And from the brook the joyous
cries of children
Are borne to me;

When fields of grain have caught
a gleam of moonlight
But dark the ground -
A pearl-grey mist has filled
to over-flowing
The dells around;
Some golden stars are peeping
forth to brighten
The eastern wood -
Then I am resting out upon
my doorstep
In nature's mood.

My heart reflects the rest
and sweet rejoicing
Around, above;
Where beauty is the universal
language
And peace and love.
Where all things seem to join
in benediction
And prayers for me;
Where at night's loving hear
both earth and heaven
At rest I see.

And when the last of all
my days is over,
The last page turned -
And, whatsoever shall be deemed
in wages
That I have earned,
In such a mood I hope to be
composing
My-sweetest lay -
And then extend my hand to
all the world
And pass away.

PACIFIST —

Stephansson also managed to rouse the ire of the Icelanders by his pacifist stand that he took during both the Boer and First World Wars. While Icelandic-Canadians were proudly cheering the war effort, Stephan G., in his hatred for this legalized slaughter, penned lines such as these:

In Europe's reeking slaughter pen
They mince the flesh of murdered
men.

While swinish merchants, snout in
trough,
Drink all the bloody profits off.

"Vígslod," or "The Trail of War" was a collection of his antiwar poems which nearly landed Stephansson in jail on the charge of treason. However, this was averted by a friend of his, Rognvaldur Petursson, the Unitarian minister from Winnipeg. Lifelong friends, Stephen G. thought highly of Petursson and of the freer thinking Unitarian Church.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION —

The First World War precipitated the Bolshevik revolution in Russia with its promise of a classless society. Stephansson shocked, angered and embarrassed the west Icelanders by condoning, in principle, the Communist take-over. He was accused of being a Communist, and even call himself "a Red". But one has to remember the times. By 1920, the Red scare was in full swing in North America and anyone with any socialistic tendencies was automatically considered a Communist. Stephan G. was not a Communist. He was a humanitarian. He believed in the goodness of mankind and man's ability to distinguish between right and wrong. To him, it was man's responsibility to progress so that others, in the future, might benefit. He saw the world and man as evolving toward a time when:

. . . wealth that is gathered by
taxes or tolls

Or tariffs - is counted as vain
Where no man's success is
another man's loss,
Nor power the goal and the gain.
The first of commandments is
justice to all
And victory causes no pain.

An idealist, certainly. Stephan G. truly believed that man's innate goodness could triumph over all.

DESCRIBED PRAIRIES AND MOUNTAINS —

Not all his verses dwelt on such heavy matters. Stephansson's ability to adapt to life in North America is also illustrated through his poetry. Although he followed traditional Icelandic poetic forms and meters, and often hearkened back to the saga figures in his verses, Stephan G. could not, nor did he wish to, ignore his life as a homesteader and as a west Icelander. Some of his most beautiful poems are those which described the prairies and the Rocky Mountains. Perhaps in this next segment from "En Route", Stephan G.'s adoption of and sensitivity to the prairies is shown best:

At dawn, when we woke, there were
blankets enough
On the couch where we lay in a row,
For blizzards of midnight upon
us had spread
A foot of soft, eider-down snow:
.....

But the air was a bitter as death,
while the sun
Rose slowly with shivering ire;
The cold scorched our throats,
it was flame to our flesh,
And burned in our lungs like a fire
The bluish-white tide of the snow
had engulfed
Each hillock and hollow as well,
And the frost-haggard trees were
like pallid, gray ghosts
From the pale, frozen forests of hell.

BLEND OF TWO WORLDS —

Stephansson wrote virtually all his verses in Icelandic, for he was writing solely for an Icelandic and a west Icelandic audience. He never gave any thought to expanding his horizons beyond his ethnic boundaries, for he never considered himself anything other than a west Icelander. As a poet, he used traditional forms of poetry to often portray non-traditional subject matter; in this way, his verses illustrated a blending of two worlds, two cultures. That Stephan G. was neither an Icelander nor a Canadian, but was a product of the two is an experience common to all immigrants: their roots lie elsewhere but by choice they live in another land.

HERO IN ICELAND —

If he was at times unpopular with other west Icelanders, Stephansson was a hero back home. In 1971, the people of Iceland had him return for a visit, at which time he was named Poet Laureate. Today, a memorial cairn overlooks the valley where he was born. His poems are studied in the schools, and his name is held in awe and reverence by all Icelanders. Recognition in his adopted land has come more slowly, though. In 1953, the federal government erected a cairn to him in the park at Markerville, and in 1975 the Alberta government designated his home as a Provincial Historic Site.

HOME IN MARKERVILLE —

The Stephansson house is itself an expression of Stephan G.'s ability to adapt to life in the Canadian west, for his home was a pretty little Victorian cottage. This adoption of a Canadian architectural style did not disturb Stephan; he knew in his own mind who he was and to build and live in such a "Canadian" house did not mean he had compromised his cultural values.

HISTORIC SITE —

The log house, though, had fallen into a bad state of disrepair by the time it was turned over to historic sites. The house, built on a loose rock foundation, had sunk, resulting in the rotting of the bottom logs and of the siding. There was a hole in the roof which rotted one of the interior log walls and damaged the floor joists. Historic Sites, before doing anything to the structure itself, photo documented the house and removed the furniture to its warehouse for cataloguing and eventual restoration.

Continued on page 4

GENERAL MEETING OF THE ALBERTA CULTURAL HERITAGE COUNCIL, CALGARY, ALBERTA — FEBRUARY 13-15, 1981

by Linnea Lodge

Hon. Mary LeMessurier, Minister of Culture addressed the Council on Saturday and made a presentation of gifts to all Council Members, in recognition of their voluntary efforts.

The main thrust of the work for this weekend was the final reading of the revised report of "Directions for Cultural Heritage Policy in the 80s" and approval by Council Members. The ad hoc Committee reviewing the Position Paper No. 7 was established May 10, 1980 and their work was handled in various ways as well as holding several meetings. The questionnaire responses were coded and the data processed through the computer for analysis. At the September 1980 general meeting the Council reviewed Position Paper No. 7 - Alberta's Heritage Policy. At that meeting, members were organized into six discussion groups. The ad hoc Committee examined two recent public statements represen-

ting the position of the Government of Alberta with respect to cultural diversity. Council resolutions passed during the eight year period of its existence expressed many concerns. Additional background material from various documents and reports on new directions in multi-cultural policies and programs both federally and in the other provinces was reviewed. The five following themes seem to be of current concern -

1. Promotion of intercultural awareness
2. Promotion of an appreciation of cultural diversity
3. Cultural preservation and development
4. Language preservation
5. Universality and Canadian identity

Saturday afternoon five speakers discussed individual and group concerns, in which I spoke on the International Year of the Disabled Person. The Executive of Council will consider this item for a meeting in 1981.

The Calgary Fiddlers (Fiddlers Hatchery) came to entertain us on Saturday evening and were very well received. They are planning to tour Europe in the summer and include in their performances several different styles of folk fiddling - Western North American, French Canadian, Irish and Scottish, Ukrainian, Ragtime and Swedish. Notes under the Swedish section read - The Swedish "fiddle" originally was made from a wooden shoe with sympathetic strings inside the shoe and playing strings on top. This created a very resonant sound although it was a bit thin sounding as a shoe doesn't make the best instrument. To get the most pleasant resonances out of the sympathetic strings, these tunes frequently outline chords making a very smooth sound.

Other Scandinavian Council Members include - Harry Jensen, Calgary; Solveig Nordhagen, Grande Prairie; and Anne Sahuri, Edmonton.

THORRABLOT 1981

Continued from page 3

REMARKABLE FIND —

Once that was done, the linoleum was stripped from the dining room walls, and the under-covering of paper removed to reveal the hewn log walls. Then, the linoleum on the floor was lifted and this is what we found: hundreds of papers, some in English, some in Icelandic, some dating from as early as the 1880s and others from as late as 1910; some were in pristine condition, others were badly water damaged. In any case, a remarkable archival find. When the papers were removed and catalogued, the floor boards revealed that Stephansson had changed the interior of his house, extending a room here, knocking out a wall there.

HOUSE RECONSTRUCTED —

Then, work on the outside of the house began. Firstly, the house had to be jacked up and the overburden of earth removed. The old siding had to be removed so that the rotted logs at the bottom could be replaced. Log craftsmen cut new timbers in exactly the same style as Stephansson had done the

originals. That completed, a foundation had to be dug, and cribbing built for the footings. Concrete was then pumped into the cribbing, and the house lowered onto its new foundation, but not until his original rock foundation was replaced on top of the concrete in the same position around the house as they had been. This past winter, a new roof had been put on the house, and new siding, especially ordered to match the original, has been added.

HOPED TO BE OPEN IN 1982 —

This coming year, Historic Sites intends to finish the exterior and the interior of the house and restore the furniture. For we would like very much for the Stephansson House Provincial Historic Site to be open to the public next year, in 1982. I should like to take this opportunity to personally invite all of you to come down to Markerville to visit the site for the formal opening ceremonies. Stephansson was a man ahead of his times and a great poet. He deserves a place of honour in Alberta's and Canada's history.

"SOME SILENT SHORE"

The book "Some Silent Shore" has recently been published and is being distributed in the Winnipeg area. It tells of life along the shores of Lake Winnipeg; though fictional, the characters are very vividly portrayed.

The author, Sigrid (Emily) Johansson, grew up on the shores of Lake Winnipeg and spent many years in Gimli. On leaving Manitoba, she went to Chicago where she worked for the British Consulate General. She has attended Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Her home is currently in St. Louis.

Agent for her book is:

Ms. Reta Kurtz
Apt. 305, 595 River Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 0E6

ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

by Ninna Campbell

The March meeting of the executive was held at the home of Ruth and Chris MacNaughton with all members present.

From business arising out of the minutes, Solli Sigurdson reported he had been informed that the cultural representative vacancy has been filled by a member of the Leif Erikson Society of Calgary. Al Arnason, chairman of the Thorrablot Committee, submitted an interim report on the Thorrablot, but as all bills and expenses have not yet been turned in, a full account was not available; a formal report will be given at the next meeting.

Plans for the April Tombola were discussed and the date will be determined when the Ladies' Group convenes.

Due to the uncertain opening date for the new Centre, Sam Thorkelson moved that Brinki Gudmundson be appointed negotiator for obtaining a hall for next year's Thorrablot.

Charter flights to Iceland will be taking place this summer; further information should be received before the next meeting. President

Solli Sigurdson will be mailing a newsletter shortly. The next meeting will be at Leif and Lucille Oddson's at 6412 - 84 Street.

Helen and Harold Halldorson returned from a mid-winter holiday in Hawaii. The weather was 'just right' and they enjoyed the trip.

Get well wishes are extended to Ron Bell of Fawcett, Alberta; Ron is at the Royal Alex Hospital.

Welcome to Edmonton, John and Margret Duncome. Margret hails from Iceland and John from England. He has accepted a position with Canadian Bechtel.

Sina Kristjanson underwent surgery last month and is recuperating nicely at home.

Oli and Gwen Narfason of Gimli, Manitoba, were recent visitors. Gwen's sister, Sina and Oli Kristjanson; while here they attended our Thorrablot.

Next month's correspondent is Shirley Sigurdson, phone 437-2923.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

The Wilhelm Kristjanson Memorial Scholarship

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba offers the Wilhelm Kristjanson Memorial Scholarship to students who have completed one year of post-secondary education, whether at a university or a community college.

The \$200.00 scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving student of Icelandic descent. The following are the criteria for selection:

- the applicant must be of Icelandic or part Icelandic descent
- a first class "A" academic standing is desirable and a "B" standing

is the minimum participation in extra-curricular or community activities

Applications for this scholarship with relevant supporting information, including a brief description of the activities in which the applicant has been involved, the name of the college or university attended and the most recent transcript of marks are to be forwarded by March 31, 1981, to:

Mrs. Kristine Perlmutter
212 Sherburn Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3G 2K6

ACCORDIAN FESTIVALS

This year's "Alberta Old-Time Accordion Festival" will be held at the Memorial Centre Auditorium, Red Deer, July 3 and 4. There will be competition in several categories, with trophies and cash prizes and the most esteemed trophy of the festival is the Alberta Old-Time Accordion Festival - Gold Accordion Award - presented to the winner of the open solo class. Anyone interested should contact: Edwin Erickson, Box 29, Buck Lake, Alberta.

The "Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships" will be held about a week later, on July 9, 10 and 11. They also have competition in several categories, one is called "The Happy Hans Open" with the festival's highest prize and trophy, and there is also a light classical event added this year. If you are interested, get in touch with: Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships, Box 63, Kimberley, British Columbia.

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SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE



DENMARK

by Aage Knudsen

I would like to tell you about an exciting and eventful five week trip I took to Denmark last summer. It was my fourth journey in recent years to the land of my birth; with every trip I absorb a little more of the Danish language, culture and traditions. Our parents emigrated to Canada in 1927 with five young children and, over the years, we heard about this far-away country, so it has been very enlightening to see it first hand and to visit our numerous relatives. Our first home in Canada was in the Brownfield district north of Coronation, Alta.

I think the Danes mix the traditional and the modern very pleasantly. They are very energy conscious and have strict regulations for preservation of the environment (miljø). That's one new word I learned this trip. One man said, "Denmark is going to hell but at least we are going first class".

Anyway, to get back to my trip, I arrived at Tirstrup Airport outside Aarhus without one krone of Danish currency to my name; I had neglected to "veksel" any travellers cheques in Copenhagen. The bus chauffeur said "21 kroner, please" so I gave him \$10. in Canadian money, and did get a little change. That was sort of a bad start. Now you get only 4.65 kroner to a dollar.

So began a round of visits with relatives and friends beginning with a fond welcome from our Aunt Johanne who lives in the rural village of Vestbirk. She is 81 years old, lives in a cozy little house with an apple tree hugging the brick front wall and an immaculate Danish garden out back. Aunt Johanne is an expert on family genealogy and told me about her cousin Birthe Højmark who established a home for girls 75 years ago.

Summer of 1980 was a wet one with three times the normal rainfall. Strawberries were rotting in the fields, tractors were getting stuck and the hay was soaked from the downpour. I visited "Overgaard", the farm in Gammelstrup where mother was born but which is now vacant. The owner, our cousin, died last March. The house is beginning to show its age. It is over 100 years old and the farm has been in the family for six generations. The hundred-year-old cherry tree beside the barn needs pruning.

Vestbirk is situated close to a lake of the same name. During the horse and buggy days a canal was dug to deepen Gudenaa, the river which drains the lake. By Canadian standards it's not much of a river; you can spit across it. The river was dammed, creating a two-turbine hydroelectric works. Gudenaa is a popular river with the "canoe folk" who sail here in summer. The rolling countryside is very scenic with the fields of rye and turnips and the graceful swans on the lake.

On Sunday we went to church in Ostbirk. A fellow by the name of Peder Skram is buried in the churchyard; he must have been a highly esteemed gentleman because his tombstone is richly ornamented and impressive. I think the translation of his epitaph would be something like this: "Here rests Peder Skram, 1581. Lord of Urup. Admiral of the Realm. While snowflakes fall and the billows roll, His dare-devil Denmark remembers his soul".

We visited an old gentleman who was a resident of the senior citizen's home in Sønder Vissing. Rasmus Jensen's great grandmother was named Gabrielle and thereby hangs a tale. A framed scroll over his bed tells the story: "Gabrielle, whose full name was Gabrielle Cadern Philippe de Bergon, was born in Orleux and is buried in Underup Churchyard. She accompanied Anders Rasmussen to Denmark in 1815 clad as a hussar on the horse 'Messingjeus', that is buried on A. Rasmussen's birth place in the village of Torp by Horsens. Gabrielle left this world the 12th of October, 1855. Their children were Kirsten, Rasmus, Gabrielle and Karen. Born in Orleux,

France in 1791." Rasmus is very proud of his ancestry.

I made my pilgrimage to the Flyers' Memorial just north of Vestbirk. This is in honor of seven World War II airmen who died when their bomber was shot down. On the stone memorial is written: "This stone is dedicated to the memory of seven Allied flyers who forfeited their lives on the night of April 9, 1943. It is erected by the district residents in gratitude for their sacrifice. For freedom and right".

An oak tree shades the memorial and there are always fresh flowers beside it. I often thought about these brave men who died in the prime of life.

We visited Tønning Kirke where I was baptized. The church has a tower of red bricks and a ridged roof dating from the Middle Ages (ca. 1500) and later rebuilt. Wrought iron letters on the tower face are 1770 and 1806. The altar panel is from Christian IV's reign with a painting, "Christ in Gethsemane" from 1875 by V. Pacht. The church underwent extensive renovations in 1946-47.

Many nights we saw the Olympic Games televised from Moscow, as Denmark did not boycott them. Denmark won the sailing event held in Tallinn, Estonia. It was quite evident that the Russians put their best foot forward to show the world what they could do. They should have called it the Communist Olympics because most of the contestants were from East Bloc countries.

I visited cousin Erling and his family in Haderslev in Southern Jylland. Erling is a headmaster in a large high school but it was vacation time. We drove to the seaside town of Sønderborg with its mediaeval castle. Here they say King Christian was held prisoner for 17 years in the 16th century, forgot what for. Then back to Haderslev via Dybbøl Mølle, Graasten and Aabenraa. Dybbøl Mølle, a Danish national symbol, has been bombarded and burnt numerous times and been rebuilt, withstood a Prussian siege in 1864 for 34 days. Graasten Castle, bought by the state in 1921, is the summer residence of Queen Margrethe and Prince Henrik and their two sons. Erling and I drove to Berlin in his little Chevette via DDR (East Germany) but that is another story. Every time you go through East German customs they soak you 10 Deutschmarks, in Western marks. In West Berlin we saw a young girl with this on her sweat-shirt: "En kvinde uden en mand er som en fisk uden en cykel".

Erling said you can buy Aalborg Akvavit in Germany for less than half the price you pay in Denmark. That indicates the tax you pay in good old Denmark. Gasoline is about four times the Canadian price.

Erling's library contains books in English, Danish and German. He had a book, "This is Alberta" by Ken Liddell.

I'm tired of the sights and the city's bright lights, I long for the peace of the range. The spell of the mountains majestic and grand, The nights that were awesome and strange.

Visited cousins near Hedensted. Aksel and I biked to Urlev; that is the best way to see the country. We passed a field of corn and I thought Aksel said it was to be used for insulation but on second thought I guess it was ensilage for cattle feed. Language difficulties?

We toured Hosby Huse, A/S, Denmark's largest modular home factory. Located near Juelsminde, it is a very modern plant employing 200. Most of the homes are exported, production is an average of 3 units per day. They even had some B.C. packaged lumber in the yard, from Weyerhaeuser and Carrier Lumber of Prince George. Various modern innovations in the factory: pushbutton TV programmer to cut doors and windows; a cylindrical rack of angle iron in which a wall panel is held by suction cups and the entire unit turns

on rollers; triple thermopane windows; floor panels with 8 inches of insulation; laminated beams vacuum impregnated with wood preservative.

Sunday morning cousin Herdis and I attended services (Gudstjeneste) in rustic little Dalby Kirke. Then we visited Hvittinghus churchyard where our paternal grandparents are laid to rest. Jakob Knudsen had 8 children, there is only Aunt Eva left.

August 3 was the occasion of Aunt Johanne's 81st birthday banquet held in Vestbirk Forsamlingshus. Pastor Jakob Rod was M.C., a very congenial man. The menu consisted of ham steak with trimmings, ice cream and strawberries, white and red wine, chicken soup with dumplings. Talk about a feed! Someone said the food tasted good and Johanne said, "Ja, uha da".

I visited my old friend Søren Christian Jensen. In 1912 he worked in a sawmill near Fresno, California. In those good old days the tax collector came around once a year to collect the annual income tax of \$1.00. He usually stayed for dinner but as luck would have it, Søren Chr. was absent every time he came around. So I said, "You better get back to California and pay your taxes".

The "Skorstensfejermester" (Master Chimney Sweep) came to clean the chimney, cost 34 kroner. He was not wearing his traditional top hat. Another day a young long-haired man came with the old spinning wheel. He had repaired it and did not want any payment, just some apples when they were ripe. That spinning wheel belonged to our grandmother, Ane Marie Nielsen; I have a photo of her at the "Spinderokken" taken maybe 40 years ago. Beside her is the old organ. This is the same organ that auntie plays, "Jeg er født paa Jyllands Slette, der hvor lam af Lyngen nipper". This famous song is written by Jeppe Aakjaer (1886-1930), Denmark's peasant poet.

In Jyllands Posten there was a story about Austrup Fabrikken, A/S of Odense building a tin container factory in Venezuela. N. Johannes Austrup was mother's cousin and a millionaire industrialist. In later years he sold the company to a Swedish concern and moved to Switzerland. His second wife was Swedish born. While living in their summer residence in Florida, Anna Austrup had her husband declared incapable of managing his affairs. Herr Austrup's sons got wind of the lady's activities and kidnapped their father, taking him back to Denmark. Anna Austrup informed the FBI and Interpol, who declared her charges groundless and the Danish state Attorney General concurred. Johannes Austrup died in 1976 at the age of 86, leaving an estate of 10 million kroner.

We visited Aunt Eva, dad's sister, who lives in Horsens. We took the rutebil via Potmosevej and Sattrup. Horsens is a picturesque little city of 40,000 inhabitants. Its most famous son is Vitus Bering, who in the employ of the Russians, discovered Bering Strait between Alaska and Siberia. In Vitus Bering Park in Horsens is a memorial plaque flanked by two cannons from the explorer's ship. I had a Tuborg beer in Vitus Bering pub just off Søndergade.

Saturday, August 9 off on an unforgettable tour with Pastor Rod and 17 members of the Tønning congregation. First stop was the old town of Ribe on the west coast, where we had lunch at Weis' vinstue. Ribe Cathedral, with its elaborate Gothic Romanesque architecture, was begun by monks in 1134. The grey building stones (munkesten) came by ship from the Rhine. I walked up the 232 steps to the tower from which there was a wonderful view of the countryside and the North Sea in the distance. At noon a melody was played on the carillon.

Thence to Logumkloster, which was one of the great monastic estates of the Middle Ages. Built as a monastery in a rural area, by

faithful dedication and hard work it became very prosperous. As E. Watts writes in his brochure, "The brothers' achievement amazes and humbles this present generation, so accustomed to the more softening amenities of the 20th Century". This is quite true; the magnificence of Logumkloster Church leaves you breathless. We sat in the monk's dining room - a circular brick room with a ledge around the perimeter.

Ejler the bus driver wheeled us across the plains of Sønderjylland to Christiansfeld. The town and church are governed by the Moravian Brotherhood. They came here from Czechoslovakia in 1773 seeking freedom of worship. The church itself was very austere, no sculptures or paintings on the walls. The Moravian sister's specialty is honey cake which is sold in their shop, "Brodrehusets Honningkagebod". Then we wheeled north on Motorway E3 past Kolding and over the new Vejle Bridge to Bredal Restaurant where we had Danish beef for supper. Home at nine and so ended an eventful day.

We took in the Prairie Fest in Nr. Snede. There was a good parade with the Wild West theme, a Laredo Bar and a Texas Bar and the Tuborg and Carlsberg flowed like Arabian oil (almost as expensive too). The Peder Most Marching Band from Svendborg was there and I lost a few kroner in the one armed bandits.

We took the rutebil and train to Holstebro to visit Harald and Magda Rebbe who have a farm at Mejrup. The soil in this part of the country is sandy but evergreen windbreaks keep it from blowing away. Prairie farmers should go there to learn to plant trees. Harald has renovated the house extensively but he is worried that none of his children want to take over the farm. They say there is too much work for what you get for your labor. At Herning we had a 4 minute wait to change trains and by the time we got over to the other platform our train was just pulling out. What to do? Luckily an obliging employee of the DSB rail system got on the blower. A taxi took us to Silkeborg where the train was waiting. DSB paid for the taxi. For good service, always travel DSB in Denmark.

Heard at the Women's Congress in Copenhagen: "You see, Denmark has two winters, a green and a white. The white one is the best because then the homes are heated". I like the old "bindingsværk" (half timbered) houses with thatched roofs. I wondered how thatched roofs were made and then on the plane from Billund to Kastrup I read a story about them. Wheat straw or marsh seeds (tagror) is used. It takes two men, one on the inside of the rafters and one on the outside. Wire is pulled

through the bundles of reeds (dukker) by the outsewer (udstikker) who is on the inside, if you follow me. Anyway, the tools used are a metal needle (taekenaal), a knife to cut the string and a piece of inner tube fitted over the palm of the right hand. Insurance is 100% higher for thatched roofs than for houses with the conventional tile or slate.

The Hebron Missions hotel on Helgolandsgade in Copenhagen was filled up so I had to settle for a second rate hotel. The room was so small that I developed a severe case of Claustrophobia.

When I make my first million I will take a years' holiday and try to see all the sights of cosmopolitan København. In Tivoli Gardens there were wall to wall people; I imagine it has changed considerably since Georg Carstensen started it 140 years ago. Tivoli is not only an amusement park but a state of mind, like one of H.C. Andersen's fairy tales. Then on the Grand Copenhagen tour to see castles, breweries and beautiful cathedrals. The Little Mermaid was still patiently modelling for the hoards of tourists. The ballet "The Little Mermaid" was premiered in 1909 and Carl Jakobsen, founder of Carlsberg Brewery, commissioned the statue. Edvard Eriksen performed the work, using his young wife as a model. 1980 was the centennial year of Carlsberg Brewery but unfortunately the tour bus didn't stop so we could get a free beer. One interesting stop was the Freedom Museum by Winston Churchill Park. This museum was built in commemoration of Denmark's fight for freedom during World War II. The Danish Resistance Movement saved almost the entire Jewish population by smuggling them to Sweden in fishing boats.

Grundtvig's Kirke, a magnificent monument to a famous Danish theologian, hymn writer and philosopher. Its soaring lines remind one of a giant pipe organ. The tour guide pointed out the football stadium where he said 60 thousand spectators watch while the Swedes lick the Danes every year. I bought some Danish porcelain but it wasn't Bing and Grøndahl or Kongelig. I think it was Modern No Brand Name. Couldn't afford B & G.

I bought a cassette tape narrated by Eigil Hall. He says that the Danish language has been described as a guttural sound or a throat infection or something even worse. This is not true; anyone should be able to say "Havregrod amed fløde". The girl at the hotel said, "You have a Danish name. How come you speak English"?

"The door to happiness opens outward" - Søren Kierkegaard. Farvel, dejlig Danmark.



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TROLLHAUGEN 1981

by Astrid Hope

Time to think Camp for 1981!
This year the Norwegian Language and Arts Camp will be hosted by Red Deer's Aspelund Lodge, August 16th through 22nd, at Sylvan Bible Camp, a description of which follows:

LODGING —

There are 21 rooms in the dormitory which will accommodate a total of 60 adults, or more some being children. Each room contains one double bunk and one double bed.

The Lodge has 9 bedrooms, each containing one double bunk and one double bed, accommodating 30 or more. It is heated and has a sitting room with chesterfield; there is, however, no running water.

There are 10 cabins — half are new — and each sleeps 6.

The kitchen is large and roomy, and serving is cafeteria style. There

are 12 round tables seating 6 adults or 8 children each.

There are ample workshop and class facilities, as well as a chapel which seats over 150.

Outdoor accommodations are badminton court, volley-ball court, two horse-shoe pits, bonfire pit, approximately 8 canoes, small deck, play area, and by August there may be a sauna. There are facilities for swimming (although the beach is rocky) and hiking.

At present 16 camping units can be handled, but it is expected that by August there will be room for 25; power outlets are available for most.

This year's theme will be "Norwegian Mosaic", and we are all getting pretty excited about it. So remember, when you are planning holiday time — reserve August 16 through 22!

A very special program is again planned for the last day — Saturday, August 22nd. Guests and

visitors are welcome to view the crafts, and if you are planning to participate in the festive "kveldsmat", please make your reservation.

This year we would like lots of musical instruments, and anyone with a 'bunad' (Norwegian costume) of any kind, please bring it along.

Applications will be available shortly, so please write to or phone:

Mrs. Thelma Dorin, Camp Director
RR 1, Innisfail, Alberta
Phone 1-227-2320

OR
Mrs. Astrid Hope
6307 - 103A Avenue
Edmonton T6A 0W7
Phone 469-4747

OR
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June 30 - July 20, 1981

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4. A limited number of seats can be booked up to 7 days prior to flight time upon a late booking fee of \$50.00.
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APPLICATION FORM:

Surname: _____ Given Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please reserve _____ seats on the Charter Flight from Calgary to Copenhagen, July 1 to 22, 1981.

I would like to be seated in ☐ Non-Smoking Section ☐ Smoking Section

Additional Names:

Surname: _____ Given Names: _____ Age: _____

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Surname: _____ Given Names: _____ Age: _____

I enclose \$ _____ as deposit on the Charter flight. Please bill me for the balance to be paid 60 days prior to departure and \$ _____ as premium for Cancellation Insurance.

- ☐ I do not want to purchase Cancellation Insurance
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- ☐ I am interested in Eurail Pass Information
- ☐ I am interested in Scandinavian Tour. Please mail detailed itinerary.
- ☐ Special Request. Please specify:

Signature _____

VASA LODGE SKANDIA

by Don Samuelson

There was a good turnout for the meeting held on Monday.

Members Roy Samuelson, Henry Lodge, Margaret Engvall, and Martha Dahl were reported to be not up to par, so get well soon.

Tom Pearson and Burt Watson volunteered to stand as candidates for the Board of the Scandinavian Centre.

Linnea Lodge was the unanimous candidate to represent our lodge to run for cultural leader of Alberta for the Lodges of Alberta.

In the last article I mentioned the curling and bowling do in Lethbridge to be held on April 11th.

Carol and Marty McRae won a trip to Vegas: Nothing like winning a trip to where you can win!

And speaking of winning Milton Fawcett was playing crib

with his Uncle Romeo and needed a 29 hand to win. Romeo asked Milton if he wanted to default, but being as stubborn as Milton is, he said "No!"

Romeo was going to be out the next turn, but Milton counted first, and guess what? HE WON!

Milton, were there any witnesses?

Bob Lewis, Don Samuelson, Maureen Ropcean, and Ken Deines won the overall trophy for the curling league, tied with Burt Watson, Alan Eliasson, Cheryl Antoniuk, and Marriane Eliasson. They played a final game to break the tie, and Bob Lewis's rink came out on top. Cultural Leader Myron Kerr gave an excellent report on culture.

The Vasa Vinter Weekend was a tremendous success — thanks goes to the members of the sports committee and all the ladies who helped with dishes and food preparations.

FINNISH FOOTNOTES

by Anja Sahuri

A surprise Birthday Party was held in honor of Mrs. Kaisa Tekoniemi on March 7, 1981. Many friends came to wish Kaisa a very Happy Birthday on that date. A gift was presented by Veikko Hagman on behalf of everyone and flowers were presented by Airi Langeste. Other gifts, cards, flowers and good wishes were presented as well, and a long distance Happy Birthday call was received from

Aira Salomaa from Kelowna during the evening. Everyone had a good time and a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. Happy Birthday Kaisa.

The annual Vappu Dance will be held on May 2, 1981, at South Clareview Community Hall, starting at 7:30 p.m. Please watch for further announcements. Tickets will be available from Pentti Sipari.

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!

CLUB CURLING PLAY-OFFS

Members of the Solglyt Lodge Curling Club have played in competition over the season at the Sportex each Monday evening at 9 p.m. The six-rink club narrowed the competition to four rinks; semi-finals Feb. 20th. At that time the first met the fourth; Sev. Berge against Al Letendre. Al Letendre pulled a squeaker over Sev, tied up coming home winning 9 - 8 to enter the finals. Wally Rogers won his game over George Stewart.

In the finals March 23rd Al Letendre won his game over Wally Rogers by a score 8 - 3, and Sev

Berg won his game over George Stewart.

The Letendre rink include Bob McNaughton, Brend Letendre and Garth Travis. The Wally Rogers rink included Bill Olson with Stan & Louise Johnson. The Sev Berge rink included Rose Berge with Ken and Selma Domier. George Stewart was supported by Keith & Cheryn Lillevolden, and Willie Duchere.

The club is looking around for more curlers for next season. It is hoped they will be on a 7:00 p.m. draw and a ten-rink competition.

WINTER BICYCLE



Astrid Sveen on a 'Kik', sparkstotting

by Olaf Sveen

I am now the happy owner of a Kik, also called a Winter bicycle. Bought it from an importer in Wisconsin, USA, and it is made in Norway, where they call it a "sparkstotting". You can stand on a steel runner and kick with your foot, and you advance beautifully on icy roads.

The importer phoned and said he had difficulties getting the Winter Bicycle to Canada, it came back from the Post Office. He said it was the first time he had sent one to this country. It finally came by truck. Now I am wondering if I might be the only one to own a Winter Bicycle in this country.

CULTURAL
CORNER

by Astrid Hope, Cultural Director
Solglyt Lodge, Sons of Norway

It's Queen time again!
Applications are now open for
our annual Sons of Norway contest
which will be held along with our
April general meeting.

The lucky queen will be crowned
at the Syttende Mai festivities
which will be held on Friday, May
15th, at the Royal Glenora Club.

Participants are requested to
have the following qualifications:

1. Age 16 - 25 inclusive
2. Daughter of a Sons of Norway
member
3. Must be Norwegian by birth or
by descent
4. Must be single

The panel of judges will make its
selection based on personality,
poise, talent and appearance.
Should you wish to discuss this
further, or register as a contestant,
please phone Astrid Hope at
469-4747, or Bea or Harry Huser at
477-2735.

"FINNCHEQUES"

North Americans planning a vacation in Finland this coming summer would do well to consider purchasing some "Finncheques" before leaving. These are vouchers sold in a minimum of four, at a low \$24 U.S. a night (double occupancy) and entitling the guest to breakfast. "Finncheques" can be used to pay for accommodations in any one of 138 hotels in 66 different Finnish cities. For \$10 additional each night, the visitor can stay at such posh establishments as the Kalastajatorppa (Fisherman's Cottage), The President or Inter-Continental hotels in Helsinki, the Marina Palace or Hamburger Bors in Turku and the two year old Rosendahl in Tampere, among others.

"Finncheques" can be bought from Holiday Tours of America at 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104.

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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

SCANDINAVIAN
KITCHEN CORNER

Vegetable dishes

Finnish creamed
carrots

Kermaanmuhennetut porkkanat

4 servings

2 tablespoons margarine or
butter
3 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon sugar
Dash of ground white pepper
1 cup milk
1/2 cup half-and-half
1 (1 pound) can sliced carrots,
drained
Chopped parsley

Melt margarine; add flour,
sugar and pepper. Stir until
well-blended. Remove from heat,
slowly add milk and
half-and-half; return to heat.
Simmer, stirring constantly,
until thickened. Add drained
carrots; heat. Garnish with
chopped parsley.

Creamed cauliflower

Stuved blomkål

4 servings

1 head cauliflower, parboiled
4 tablespoons butter
5 tablespoons flour
1 pint milk
Salt and white pepper
Dash nutmeg
Finely chopped parsley

Melt the butter. Stir in flour
till smooth. Remove from
heat and add milk. Return to
heat and stir constantly until
smooth and thickened.
Season. Break cauliflower into
large flowerets and arrange in
an ovenproof dish. Pour the
sauce over and heat through
in a hot oven for 5 minutes.
Sprinkle with chopped parsley
before serving.

Finnish turnip

Lanttut

4 to 6 servings

2 tablespoons margarine or
butter
2 pounds yellow turnip, peeled
and cut into 1/2" cubes
2 teaspoons salt
2 beef bouillon cubes
2 cups boiling water
Parsley

Melt margarine in 2-quart
saucepan. Sauté turnip cubes
over medium heat, turning
occasionally to brown lightly on
all sides. Sprinkle with salt; add
bouillon cubes and water. Bring
to a boil; cover, reduce heat
and simmer until tender about
25 minutes. Garnish with
parsley.

Norwegian fried
onions

Stekt løk

4 servings

2 tablespoons margarine or
butter
4 medium onions, peeled and
thinly sliced
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon Worcestershire
sauce
1 tablespoon chopped parsley

In large frying pan, melt
margarine, add onions and salt;
saute over medium heat,
stirring occasionally, until
transparent and golden brown
Stir in Worcestershire sauce.
Sprinkle with parsley before
serving.



Finnish turnip

The turnip is a substantial and
wholesome vegetable that goes
well with a choice cut of pork.

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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

Next Deadline

APRIL 15, 1981

TELEMARK KAFFELAG

by Astrid Hope

As has become the practise on Sons of Norway's Initiation Night, there was another special display and kaffelag held in February.

Bea Huser was resplendent in her Telemark costume which she had embroidered herself, for which Harry had designed the pattern and made the silver ornaments and buckles. She brought numerous artifacts depicting the mode of life and the designs of the area: a hand-made potato-masher, especially used for making lefse; Telemark rosemaling, a copper coffee pot; typically patterned knitted socks and mittens; a photograph of her grandmother who emigrated from Telemark; and her prized possession of an old Bible and hymnary.

There was a book of Henrik Ibsen's plays, and Porsgrun china, representing respectively Skien, Ibsen's birthplace, and Porsgrun - both cities of the Telemark area.

Bea gave a very colourful and touching description of her grandmother in prose, followed by a recitation she had composed herself in 1938.

A very special lunch was arranged: first a sample of cloudberry liqueur (these berries are prevalent in the Telemark region); then there was 'prim', milk boiled down to a soft, brownish creamy cheese substance as topping for lefse; 'moltebar' and 'tyttebar' sauces for the 'vafflers'; and lots of hot coffee.

Cloudberry (moltebar) are plump, orange-yellow berries resembling raspberries (and, in fact, are of the same family) which are found mainly on mountain marsh lands. They have a unique flavour and contain an abundance of Vitamin C.

Lingonberries (tyttebar) resemble our cranberries.

The lunch was greatly relished and appreciated by the members.

TELEMARK —

Telemark is a county in middle south Norway. It consists of precipitous gorges, vast stretches of mountain moorland, and majestic peaks which include the 6,200-foot Mount Gausta with its breathtaking view which, in the startlingly clear air of the north, embraces nearly one-sixth of Norway. It is probably the most extensive view that can be seen with one's feet on land!

RJUKAN —

Rjukan is an industrial hemmed

in between sharply-rising forest-covered slopes. It was made famous by the daring raid at Venmark in 1943 on the German-controlled heavy-water factory by nine Norwegian commandos who blew the factory up and put it out of action for many valuable months. Heavy water was essential for the development of the atom bomb. The film "Heroes of Telemark" was made here, and it told the story of this feat of extreme courage.

HEDDAL STAVE CHURCH —

In Telemark is the famous Heddal Stave Church built in the 1240's — the largest and most spectacular of all Norway's stave churches. It has tier upon tier of dragonheaded rooflets rising from the ambulatory cross-topped spires. Its ancient brown timbers and the primitive simplicity of its interior contrast sharply with the ornate rococo interior of the large church in Kongsberg with its sculptured gold-tasseled draperies, rich in carving and colour, mainly gold and blues; trumpeting angels; and the water-fall glitter of its chandeliers.

Kongsberg is a silver-mining town. Silver was officially discovered in 1623 by a young boy when one of the cows he was tending rubbed its horn against a stone, knocking off the moss and revealing the silver. King Christian IV wasted no time in arriving from Denmark when he heard of the discovery; he supervised the building of the town that bears his choice of name, King's Mountain.

SKIEN —

Skien is one of Norway's oldest town and the capital of the county. It is a busy industrial centre and the birthplace of Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen, however, never liked Skien, always associating it with his unhappy childhood; he left to become an apothecary's assistant at Grimstad. They still hold festivals in Skien in his honour, and in a small park his statue stands.

In another large park - Brekke Parken - is the graceful porticoed Manor House which holds many relics from Ibsen's past. Here are the reconstructed rooms from his Christiania residence with the great man's own furniture and possessions, including the simple bed and bedroom in which he died in May, 1906. The two famous portraits that Ibsen painted of his brothers as a fox and a monkey

hang on the walls, together with other examples of his artistic ability which he inherited from his mother.

Ibsen's many, many plays are being introduced more and more into the theatre world — live, viewed on film and television. Several of them have been enacted in Edmonton theatres, such as "Doll's House", "Wild Duck", "Enemy of the People", "Masterbuilder", "Hedda Gabler" and "Ghosts".

PORSGRUND —

Here one finds Norway's porcelain factory where the traditional Christmas Plate was introduced. Its origin is found in an old Danish tradition. Wealthy people gave their servants a plate heaped with goodies at Christmas. When the food was eaten, the plate often served as a decoration. Porsgrund made their first one in 1909 but did not resume making them until 1968 when the tradition was given new life; since then a new one has been produced each year. They have also started producing Christmas mugs and plates de luxe which are much sought after by collectors.

THE 'STABBUR' —

So typical in many parts of Norway that it could almost be considered the country's symbol is the 'stabbur', or loft or storehouse, where goods were stored for the winter or for lean years. Stabbur were built with two storeys long before the event of houses for living in. The second storey usually overhangs the first, with an encircling balcony, and a great deal of skilled carving might have been lavished on the exterior. In Telemark the stabbur is an architectural showpiece and they have been carefully preserved.

CRADLE OF SKIING —

Telemark is the 'cradle of skiing'. This is the county which made skiing the sport it is today - due in no small measure to a Telemark man, Sondre Norheim, who, in 1850, devised a new style of ski bindings in the shape of back fastenings stretching from the toe band around the foot, thus giving freedom of movement to the heel and at the same time eliminating the disadvantage of losing a ski at an inopportune moment.

Sondre Norheim was one of the greatest skiers of the 19th century; even as a young boy he made history with an exceptionally long

jump which he accomplished by putting up snow-covered planks from the roof of his hillside home to the slope behind, and setting out to jump not only the farmhouse, but the roof of his father's barn to land far down the hill. During the winter Olympics in Norway in 1952 the Olympic torch was lit at Norheim's birthplace, Morgedal, and brought by skiers and the 120 miles to Oslo.

Slalom races have been taking place for centuries in Telemark, and it was the characteristic sharp turn at the end of the course that became known to the world as the 'Telemark turn'.

ASKEAD —

Asbjornsen and Moe folk tales and ballads are a local collection from Telemark.

All through Telemark are 'gaards', unchanged since the time of Askelad, the hero of the folktales, and there is still the same fear of natural forces - sudden blizzards, falls of snow, impenetrable mists, or the cold. Every Easter, when two-thirds of the population desert the towns for the countryside, 'Mountain Rules' are printed in the daily papers; they are not substantially the rules observed by Askelad, and all should follow them: Don't set out on a ski tour unless you are in good form; don't go alone; listen to the experienced mountain folk; be equipped against bad weather even on a short excursion; never forget map and compass; make it known where you are going; respect the weather and the weather report; turn back in good time — there is no shame in turning; keep together in a crisis, spare your reserves of strength, seek shelter in good time, dig into the snow when necessary.

POSTAL HISTORY —

Snowshoe Thompson, 1827-76, created postal history when he skied the mail over the mountains between Placerville, California, and Carson, Nevada, every winter for 20 years until the railroad was completed. He was born in Telemark and emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1837.

ROSEMALING —

Native arts and crafts have always flourished in Telemark and found expression in poetry and music, as well as exquisite handicrafts. Telemark is one of the four areas that produced the most unique Rosemaling designs. It is a most interesting folk art that was born as a definite style of interior

decorative painting in the early 1700's and was almost obsolete by the end of the 1800's. It was a rustic art of flower painting that adorned the walls, ceilings and furniture of peasants' homes and churches. While the basic materials, strokes and techniques are similar, the designs differ. The Norwegians were greatly influenced by the baroque and rococo periods which explains the baroque tendrils and acanthus scrolls predominant in the rose-painting of Telemark, as well as the flowing acanthus leaf and vine with many curving lines and an abundance of colour.

EAST TELEMARK —

East Telemark costumes are very colourful, with red jackets, coloured belts, luxuriant flower and tendril embroidery growing all over the apron, skirt, bodice and blouse. Even the frieze stockings were covered with flower tendrils far up the leg, a custom which prevailed right up to the 1860's. The embroidery has a bright, picturesque effect; the noticeable rhythmic and counter-rhythmic effect is like the fiddlers' tunes in the valley. The belt is tablet woven, 8 inches wide and 5 to 6 yards long, an old technique preserved in Telemark, and the costume is richly decorated with silver ornaments. The women wear a white kerchief or a coloured silk head-dress, while the girls wear multi-coloured ribbons plaited about their hair, which is piled on the head in two coils. The ribbon is tied at the nape in a large bow.

WEST TELEMARK —

The West Telemark costume has an essentially feminine grace; its simple black or blue dress has a bodice, skirt and apron trimmed with green or red. It is decorated with embroidery of various shades of red. A feature of the West Telemark costume is the bold cut of the back of the bodice. The woven, patterned belt is narrow with the ends hanging into the wearer's lap.

FOLK TRADITION —

Telemark is the centre of ancient Norwegian folk traditions. In its valleys it has everything that makes up Norwegian peasant and national culture; it is an area rich in folklore and legends, song, stabbur, turf-roofed houses, mountain trolls, writers, silversmiths and painters. It is a most rewarding province to visit!

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MAGNA GARSTAD'S STORY



MAGNA GARSTAD

I was asked to write a chronicle to the Scandinavian Centre news about my childhood and adult life.

My life in Norway is far behind me, but interesting to remember. Time has passed rapidly since I came to Canada, it was April, 1927. The journey was by boat and train at that time. An interesting tour. It took us two weeks to reach our destination, from Oslo, Norway to Edmonton, Alberta.

We stayed in London, England, for 3 days, sightseeing. It was a great change from Norway with its fresh clean air and into fog and coal dust and smoke in London and New Castle.

I was born January, 1902, at Jevnaker, Norway. As a child, I recall things never to be forgotten. Both my parents came from families of healthy, strong people. They were both well educated. My father was in the Forestry and Military. He was a very good father and family man, good-looking and well respected, and a teetotaler-he neither smoked nor drank alcohol.

My mother came from a farm in the mountain region. She was good looking and intelligent, and was able to take further schooling after public school and was involved in nursing and social work. She came to Jevnaker where she met my father. They were married in June, 1899. They bought a large, sturdy house where they lived many years and raised a family of six girls. Later on they adopted a five-month-old baby girl, and now we were seven girls. Mother was a very good housekeeper, thrifty, practical and very active in women's organizations.

There was a lot of poverty in Norway at this time. We were fortunate to have help in the house. My mother's cousin, Marit, stayed with us for years, a wonderful person. Her father, 2 boys and 3 girls emigrated to America. Marit could not go with them because her right leg was a good deal shorter than the other. The Immigration officials decided she would be a burden. What a heart break for a 16-year-old girl. When my parents were told, my father immediately travelled to Kristiania to sign adoption papers for Marit. Together, those two waved goodbye to her family. She loved them deeply. She was never to see them again.

We were very fond of Marit and she loved us as well. When Mother went to her meetings, she was safe for her household, with Marit in charge. Marit did not like school and was quite content helping in the house, ironing the dresses and petticoats we girls wore. She had a beautiful singing voice and with her guitar, it was great entertainment for all of us. The neighbour's children as well. Later Marit joined the Salvation Army. I will never forget how we girls admired her uniform and bonnet. The bonnet was not to be touched. She was sent to Trondheim to work in a hospital. We missed her at home and she wrote us regularly. One day a telegram came informing us Marit had passed away from pneumonia. We all grieved. Father had her body sent to Jevnaker, where she was buried.

Jevnaker is one of the most scenic parts of Norway. It has a sensational Randsfjord that divides the farm country and industrial area into two parts (the east side and west side). The Randsfjord is several miles long and quite narrow in some places. For years it has been used as a com-

munication service for transport. As a child, I remember boats going and coming daily, transporting freight and people. It was almost the only way of transport from the east to the west side and visa versa. In the summer the timber and logs were transported on this fjord. I remember the hustle bustle activity with the tow boat puffing and blowing all day long. When the Randsfjord froze to thick heavy ice, people worked plowing and cleaning snow to make a shiny race track and skating rink. The sport with horse and sulkie was very popular, so was the skating. Many a championship was won by Norwegians from this area. For us children, it was such fun when our parents skated with us. Skirts and petticoats swayed high in the wind. No jeans were worn by woman folk at this time. Some ladies had "muffs" to keep their hands warm, and we kids snickered about that.



'HOLESATHER' — a 'farm site' far up in the mountains at Bagn Valores, Norway. My mother's forefathers built it and resided here from 1648. It has been used as "sather" for a good many years.

My father worked as an "annamer" (logging inspector) all summer until freeze up. I can still hear the calling of the numbers when the timber marks were stamped. The end of the fjord is on the east side of Jevnaker. In this bay, the Hadelands place has employed a lot of people. From generation to generation, glass workers have had their life of living here. In some ways, they had their own community. They always had beautiful homes and were considered very intelligent, talented people. They had their own school, their sensational music band and male choir, which was always called upon for occasional entertainments. At times, but very seldom, visitors would be allowed to enter the glass factory. I had a chance to go with my parents once. I was spellbound watching the glass bowing and the shaping of glass products.

Hadelands Glassverk is world famous for its crystal and glasswares. They have a certain place for display and sale of the products. It is most fascinating to see the most exclusive crystal in clear or color. I am very proud to have in my possession, a few of these fine products.

It happened that our community midwife resided in the Hadelands Glaaerker area. As children, we were told, when there was a new baby in a home, Mrs. Northerman brought it from the Glassverk.

Another project was very important in our area at this time was the Randsfjord Paper factory. A lot of people were employed there too. There was little unemployment at this time.

The Randsfjord is also known for its fishing area. Those that are interested in this sport usually have a good catch, when they get their boat out to try their luck.

Viul sawing mill was also part of the Randsfjord industry timber drift. Here timber was made into fine smooth building materials for exclusive furniture and cabinet making.

Nesbakken was the business centre for Jevnaker district, many of them small buildings and shops, but all equipped with necessities of the time.

We had doctors, a dentist, apothecary, banks, restaurants, hotels, a florist, good stores, beauty parlors, and a millionaire. (Everyone wore hats at that time, and a long needle to keep them sitting on the head).

There was an elderly Jewish man, who with his two sons, operated a clothing store at

Nesbakken. When ever I met this man on the street or in his store, he patted me on my head and gave me candy which he always carried in his pocket, clean or dirty - it did not matter. "Min lille jodepige", my little Jewish girl he always called me. I had very dark complexion, dark eyes, black hair. Some of my mother's people were very dark and I inherited that look. Mother had the most beautiful grey eyes, but bluish black hair. All my sisters were fair - I was just about an ugly duckling...

When I write, I like to go back in time, as far back as I can remember. I was very fond of my grandparents and stayed with them at times in the summer. I never forgot Grandmother's fairy tales about Trolls and Goblins. I always stayed close to her. I noticed so many strange noises from the high mountains. Grandmother taught me to knit, "always use the time for

something practical" she said. I still have the knitting needles she gave me.

The first school we had was Sunday School. We had to learn to sit still and listen. The "Bede-hus" or meeting place was a large hall where over 100 children gathered every Sunday morning to get information in the Lutheran religion. The children were divided into classes, where the teachers took command. We had an adults' music band and string instruments also an Adult Choir. Oh! How we all loved to come here every Sunday morning. Everyone was dressed in their Sunday best, clean, neat and in "Ribbons, Buttons, and Bows."

The children advanced in classes. At the age of 14 years, we would be confirmed at the Lutheran State Church, with a minister officiating. The Sunday School presented each one of us with a beautiful black bible with name, date and year engraved in gold. A souvenir to behold - I have mine still. It is a little shabby after all these years.

In the summertime, the Sunday School arranged picnics and everyone attended. All the good entertainment was very much appreciated. The most special was the Christmas Concert. A part of people's life, never to be forgotten.

The public school was compulsory in Norway from age seven to fourteen years. Further education meant three years of middle school, then the West upland Folkehog School for two years. I was interested in Home Economics, so I took these classes. Now it was summer 1914...

Kristiania, the capital of Norway was the scene of the World's Fair. At that time there was a great deal of political unrest, but the fair and festivities went on. People were restless because of war hanging in the air. In August, Germany declared war on Britain and the whole of Europe mobilized for war. Norway stayed neutral, people were tense and unsure. The Coast Guard was called out. Restrictions on food were started with food rationing. The war went on. It was now 1916....

Hulda Garborg had designed a new folk dancing costume, I wanted it so badly, so mother ordered it for me and was it ever a chore to get all the embroidery and stitching done. It was 3 years before I had it finished.

Late in 1917, public places and gatherings were strictly forbidden. A plague called the Spanish Flu was announced on its way from



This is my husband, Olav Garstad's, home at Vang Valores, Norway. This farm and name has been in every generation from father to son since 1530.

southern Europe. It had swept over the whole world by the time the war was over and armistice was signed, Nov. 11, 1918-- A dangerous time-- Norway as well as other countries lost many people. Where ever a person turned there was sorrow and grief. The churchbells rung all day long for grave side burials. Our home was spared, none in our family got the sickness, all of us helped in various work. From morning to night we ran errands with medication and food from the community kitchen to homes with sickness. We left it at the doorstep, rang the bell and ran.

The spring and summer of 1919, things gradually changed and the change was welcomed by everyone, schools and public places reopened, social gatherings began again with people realizing that life had to go on.

Bygdøi, an Isle in the Kristiania fjord, started its regular weekend entertainment again. Folk songs and folkdancing. The Garborg's colorful costume was a beautiful sight for any audience. At times now, I look at my old costume--still so pretty.



MAGNA GARSTAD, AGE 24

1920-21-22 brought a lot of changes to our country. The university students began demanding new government leaders and better things for the people and country. Politically, socially, financially Norway was in critical condition. Elections were held. Changes and new administrations grew rapidly. Unemployment decreased, but even so a lot of people emigrated to the United States and Canada.

Norway's capital, Kristiania, changed its name to Oslo. A great celebration was held then. Later on the Labor party was elected and ruled for many years. Today Norway has one of the world's highest standards of living.



The old homestead at Veteran, 1958

In 1922, I finished school and got a good position as a dietitian in the Student's Home in Blinderen, Kristiania, where I worked for 5 years.

In 1926, my mother's brother came back to Norway for a one year's visit. He was a very nice person. He had lived in Polson, Montana as a business man for years. Now he was a widower with 3 children, ages 15, 12, and 8 years. When the time came to go back, he decided to settle in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He needed a housekeeper and asked me to come with him. He made arrangements to pay my fare and to give me monthly wages. I got along

fine with the children so I decided to travel with him. My older sister came with us as well and we were off to Canada! I was to stay with them a year more or less as a visitor. Arriving in Edmonton, Uncle rented a house where we stayed for a month while he tried to find a location for a grocery store. He did not find anything suitable in that line and decided to move back to Polson, Montana.

I could not go with them, my papers were not in order to travel to the States, so I was left alone in Edmonton. My sister was a trained nurse. As soon as we arrived in the city, she applied for a job as matron at Banff Nursing Home, which she got, and left for that destination. Uncle got in contact with a Lutheran Minister at Grace Lutheran Church. Very nice people. They invited me to stay with them and also helped me to get a housekeeping job at an elderly couple's home. They were very good to me. The lady helped me with the English language in my spare time and things brightened for me gradually.

I had written to a friend in Norway, and told her I was left alone in the city. She had a brother who farmed in Veteran district near Coronation, Alberta. She wrote him and told him my story. One day, I answered the door bell and stood face to face with a tall, unknown man, speaking Norwegian and asking if I was the girl his sister had written to him about. We spoke to the people I worked for, they gave me time off to go with him to a restaurant so we could talk. He offered me a housekeeping job for the summer and fall session. I asked him to come back in two weeks' time. I had to have time to decide if I should take the job or not. I spoke to the minister and his wife. They both recommended that I take the job. One of the main reasons being, that I would be in a Norwegian settlement. Two weeks went by. Mr. Garstad came back and I went with him in his Model "T" car. We left for the prairie, to his homestead at the foot of the Nose Hills, a thriving goodlooking place. His hired man, Nils, had a good meal ready for us when we arrived. A woman had cleaned the house. It was a welcome atmosphere. Garstad at that time had one section of land. The year was promising. People seemed happy. I understood now a

pioneer life was ahead of me. I had never carried water, (in or out), never lit a kerosene lamp or gas lamp, but if other women could do it, I could too. The neighbors were friendly and helpful. I got by.... In the fall, I would go back to the city. I never did go back. Somehow, Olav Garstad got me "talked in" to marrying him. We did not take a trip to visit my sister again before the coming New Year. We fixed some on the house. We made the four rooms more cozy and livable. Life went on in pioneer style. It took years before we got the telephone

Continued on page 10

MAGNA GARSTAD

Continued from page 9

installed and many more years before the electricity reached the prairie homes.

Our first child was born in 1928. The years went by fast and the family increased rapidly. The children had now reached the number of nine. Two girls and seven boys, (including one set of twin boys). At times it comes to my mind what a Norwegian neighbor once said to my husband. He said "You should have your wife staying at the farm having her baby, then it would soon take an end with this baby traffic". I did not laugh at that remark. We welcomed our babies. They were born strong and healthy, and they grew up strong and healthy. We have always been a tightly knit family. When problems occurred, the children were and are very helpful and understanding to each other. I myself have always been grateful for my good health and strength and being able to have the traditional Norwegian Christmas Eve celebration with as many as possible attending. These parties were held in my home every year until I moved to Strathcona Place.



The Garstad family of Veteran. Taken at the church, 1953

Our community went through some hardships in 1936. Hail struck the crops. We hailed out completely that time. In the coming 7 years, we hailed out 4 times. Once as late as September. Everything was one black field. It was a terrible setback. At times I got so discouraged when all our work was destroyed. My husband was more optimistic, his expression was always "Count your blessings..not the sheep."

We had to deal with bank loans and private loans, which held us back for years with payments. Financially, it was difficult but we managed somehow as the years went by and again we did pretty well with farming and cattle.

The children went to Nose Hills Consolidated School where grades up to ten were taught. It was 3 miles from home. In summer and fall, they rode horseback or drove in a buggy. In winter time, they had to be driven in a closed cutter pulled by a swift team of horses. Four trips a day, almost a day's chore. Until the boys could drive by themselves.



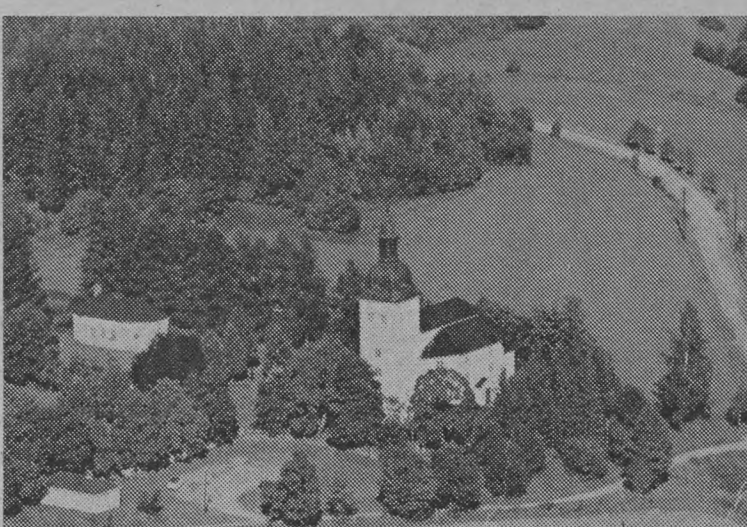
Jevnaker and Randsfjord

Agnes and Elsie took their highschool at Camrose College. Jorgen took a two year course of Education at Vermilion Agriculture School. Jens-Einar started in the oilfield very young. He improved his knowledge by taking courses and advanced in his work to a well-paid job. Gerhard, or Gid as he is called, and Raymond too, took their highschool in Veteran. The centralization had started then and they all went by bus. It was most difficult to cope with the transpor-

tation to Veteran on existing roads of the time. We had a very good school bus driver for years and we owe him a great deal for his faithful service. It is in my mind most clear, the unforgettable struggle we had for our children's education. When time came for the youngest to take highschool, we moved to Veteran.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church "St. Olav Church" built and operated by the Norwegian Settlement was erected on our homestead in 1939. My husband donated the piece of land. Ministers held services regularly. The Ladies' Aid organization was a very energetic and active group. They planned and put a lot of time in the work to serve the most delicious smorgasbord and lunches occasionally. These were prepared and served in the basement of the church. Many are the memories of babies being christened, confirmations, weddings, funerals and ordinary meetings. For many years the people in our community enjoyed gatherings at our church. A wonderful memory for all those that once took part, young and elderly.

In the spring of 1953, the Hutterite Colony was established in our community. It made a great change since most of the farmers



Jevnaker Kirke

ecutive for many years and enjoyed the association with my good neighbors very much.

After our farmhome was gutted by fire October, 1961, we left that night for Veteran and never went back to stay.

Years went on. In 1958-59, the Garstad boys were in the press for a while. Gid won the Championship for Brahma Bullriding at C.P.A. Rodeos in 1958-59. Also in 1959, the twins, Mark and David received top marks in passing grade nine at Veteran School (highest marks in the vicinity of 77 schools). Mark was two points behind David. David is the first student of Veteran School to receive the Governor General's award.

The oldest son, Jorgen, won the Irish sweepstakes in the fall of 1959. Gid took to riding early and was contestant and member of the Rodeo association. He was Presi-

dent and on the executive several terms and was actively involved in this sport many years. He is now residing in Calgary. The twins also joined the Rodeo after finishing highschool. These three boys took part in this dangerous activity for years. Beautiful trophies and a lot of informative travelling was very important for them. Little did they stop to think about us at home, worrying, "Where are our wandering boys tonight"? (It happened) Serious accidents at times. These times passed too.

Howard, our youngest, has spent a lot of years in the oilfields in Arabia and Africa. When he comes home on his time off, we are happy to have him with us. He likes travelling. The men on our family are engaged in Ranching, Transportation, Real Estate, Oilfield Consulting, and Restaurant Management.

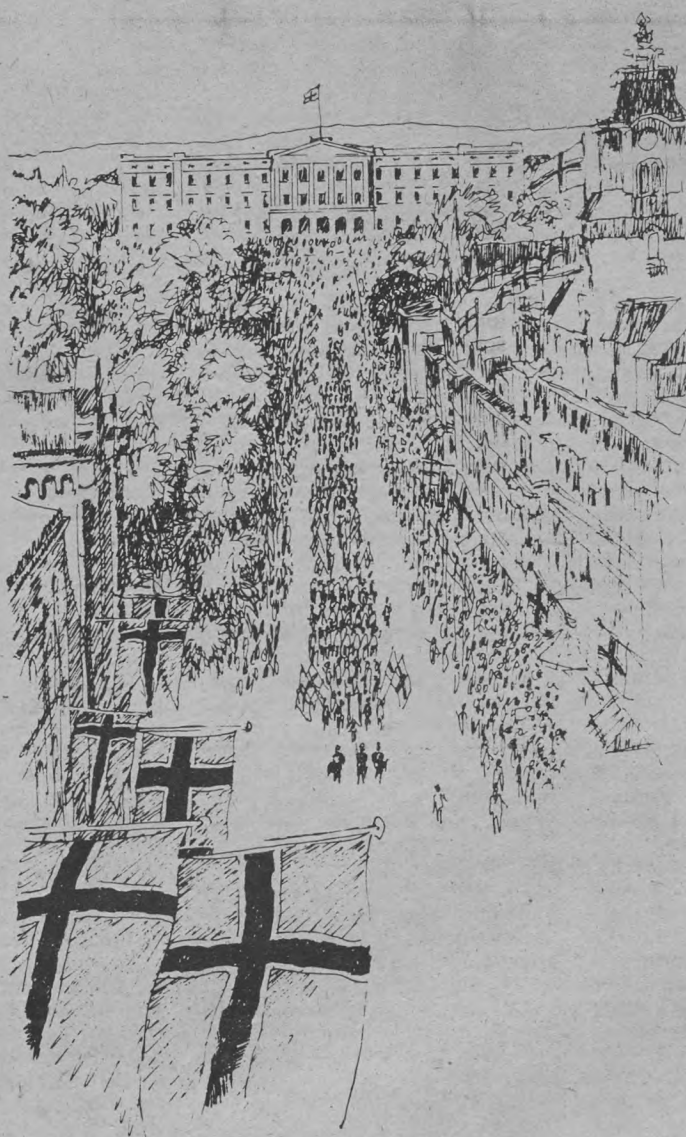
With seven sons and seven wives and two daughters and husbands, 24 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, we are a large family. I love them all.

Jorgen still resides in Veteran. The rest of the children left for different destinations. All of them live in Alberta. I have been able to visit Norway several times, also part of Europe. Some of my children have been able to see my homeland and are fascinated by its beauty and thriving way of living. I love to visit with my sisters in their beautiful homes. All of them are gifted with creative fingers and are artistic in different ways.

To be more central for the visits from my family, I moved to Edmonton in 1969. For nine years, I lived in an apartment. Two years ago, I was lucky to get a suite at Strathcona Place Residence. It was fine accommodations. About 300 senior are tenants here, all able to take care of themselves. A lot of entertainment, as well, if one likes to take part. We come and go as we please, just a few regulations. Off and on I take a trip to visit our old home town, and I enjoy so much to have a visit with my old friends. There are very few of them left now.

It is incredible how fast all these years have gone by. I am happy with my life here at Strathcona Place. I am surrounded with new friends, my age, and have a cozy little home, with my interest in all types of handicrafts, good books to read and my wide correspondence circle, I take day by day. A quotation of the noted Norwegian author Johan Falkberget.. "The day we do not write letters, our life loses a lot of its light and love".

SEVENTEETH OF MAY BALL



Traditions Never Die

by K.L. Svidal

The Strathcona and Braemar Rooms at the Royal Glenora Club are the setting for this year's Syttende Mai Fest arranged by Sons of Norway.

Friday, May 15, will see

Norwegians and their friends commemorate Syttende Mai beginning with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Following dinner dancing will commence at 9:30 to the 12-piece Evergreen Orchestra.

At midnight coffee and kranse

kake will be served, with dancing planned to continue until 1:30 a.m.

Regrettably, facilities limit the number of guests to 200.

Tickets are available on a first-come first-served basis from Selma Sorenson, telephone 425-8261.

WINTER GAMES SUCCESS



The curlers



Skiers — Bernie Collins, Ed Ness, Robert Lee, Andy Haugen, Shiela and Herman Thorsden, Verner Steinbru, Lavern Sorgaard

by Bob Burt

The 9th annual, 4th district Sons of Norway Canadian Winter Games for 1981 was sponsored by Calgary Val Halla + 341 Lodge, March 6, 7 & 8th. Over 300 members and participants sat to the games banquet and dance Saturday evening. Speakers of the evening included Everett Knudsvig, President of District 4; he and his wife travelled from Grand Forks, N.D. to participate. The theme of his talk was, "we should strive in the 80's to encourage confidence, promotion, leadership and evaluation"; all these attributes go hand in hand

for a progressive organization. He spoke encouragingly of the lodges in the future. In the games here, Everett bowled in competition, a great asset to the team — they won the high team score.

INCREASED INTEREST —

Kermit Lilja, 4th district counselor and sport director, from Missoula, Mont., spoke of increased interest in the winter games, saying that the American clubs have stolen a page from Canada. Six of the fourth district American clubs are now having winter games competitions. Kermit had been present at previous Canadian games,

and this he and his wife, Lillian, competed in the curling event. They were a tired couple following their effort. The visiting guests were honored for their participation, the ladies receiving turtle-neck sweaters, and the men travel bags, a memento of the occasion, courtesy of P.W.A.

To officially open the games, Everett Knudsvig threw the first rock. Not having curled before, it was an interesting experience.

CURLING TROPHY TO EDMONTON —

Twenty-nine rinks were entered in the spiel, curling at the beautiful

8-sheet Huntington Hills Community Curling Club. Each rink curled 3 six-end games on superb ice (no excuses because of ice conditions). There were some very close games, some run-aways, anxious draws, and excellent knock-out games. The method of scoring points for the spiel was: 4 points for a win, and a point for each end scored. These points were tallied and averaged over the number of rinks entered by each lodge.

Clubs represented in the spiel included: 9 rinks from Calgary, 7 from Edmonton, 6 from Grande Prairie, 5 from Claresholm with Camrose and Red Deer entering one rink each. The Radisson rink was unable to

catch a flight to the games, and they were sorely missed.

The Edmonton Curling Club emerged winners with 16 points, to retain the trophy for another year. Calgary was second with 15.77, Camrose & Claresholm scored 15 points, Grande Prairie 14.83 and Red Deer 10. The rink with the most points was the Grande Prairie foursome, which included Herman and Flossie Haugland with Lloyd and Cherry Zuberbier.

Don Repp, in charge of the curling event, together with Calgary's sport director, Bernie Collins, and Ed Ness, presented the trophy to Alan Letendre and the Edmonton rinks.



High curlers from Grande Prairie — Ed Ness, Herman and Flossie Houglund, Lloyd and Cherry Zuberbier, Don Repp



Calgary receives the bowling trophy — Ed Ness, Bernie Collins, Fiona Carew

CALGARY WINS BOWLING TROPHY —

Twenty very enthusiastic bowling teams played off at the 22-alley Gibson's Bowl, across from the Westgate Motel. Each team bowled six games scoring total pins dropped. Teams were encouraged by a cheering section with their "all right" for strikes or the "Oh! h! h!" on misses. Then there was the hand slapping, to pass on good luck to team mates. All the games were boisterous and enthusiastic.

The event was supervised by Fiona Carew. Six teams were entered from Calgary, 5 from Camrose, 4 from Claresholm, 3 from Edmonton and 2 from Grande Prairie.

Following the final games, which stretched well into Sunday morning, all trophies were presented. Calgary emerged the winners with a total score of 5731, Camrose teams followed closely with a scant 30 points difference. The Edmonton teams placed third.

Continued on page 12



Whist competition

WINTER GAMES

Continued from page 11

Ed Ness presented the trophy to Fiona Carew representing the Calgary bowlers. Other outstanding winners who were presented with gold pins included: Cliff Lien of Camrose, men's high single, scoring 304; ladies' high single, Betty Kolbjornsrud of Calgary, tallying 290; men's high triple, Bob Neilson of Calgary, counting 669; ladies' high triple, Isobel Pederson of Camrose, making 671. The high team single went to No. 1 Calgary team accumulating 1040. The team included Bob Neilson, John Lukeniuk, Everett Khudsvig, Sue Luavigne and Pauline Wheeler.

SKIING AT LAKE LOUISE —

The skiers who came to participate, were taken by van to Lake Louise. These included Bernie and Vickie Collins of Calgary; Shiela and Herman Thorsden and Robert Lee, representing Red Deer; Bob Johns and Verner Steinbru of Ed-

monton; and Andy Haugen a Levern Sorgaard of Grande Prairie. All thoroughly enjoyed a fine day of excellent skiing on powder snow. Ellsworth and Ken Halberg, together with Jeff Haws of Edmonton, travelled to Sunshine Slopes to take in some downhill skiing; they too enjoyed the powdered slopes.

Each of the skiers was presented with a toque by Ed Ness as a memento of the occasion, donated by P.W.A. As there was no competition this year, Ed Ness gave the trophy to Levern Sorgaard of Grande Prairie to keep for another year.

NORWEGIAN WHIST —

In the fast-action Norwegian whist, 20 keen contestants played to the bitter end at the Scandinavian Centre. All six clubs were represented. In the final tally, Thelma Dorin, President of the Red Deer Lodge, won the red rosette ribbon for ladies high with 51 points. High men's ribbon was won by Bob Burt of the Edmonton club



Edmonton curlers with the trophy

NORWEGIAN FOLK DANCES

Now is your chance to learn Norwegian folk-dancing in the most authentic way!

Instruction will be given April 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Camrose Viking Centre in Camrose. Sig Arneberg, who is retiring shortly, will instruct, with music by Mrs. Manning from Red Deer.

The fee is \$20.00 and should be paid in advance to either:

Anne Heggen, 4703 - 46 Street, Camrose T4V 1G5 - Phone 672-2931
OR Amalie Sandbu, Hay Lakes, Alberta - Phone 878-3755



Edmonton members on the bus home

SUBSCRIPTIONS
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Guess we have to explain again about subscriptions!

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So remind your friends about this if they're suddenly not getting the paper any more.

And if you're late getting your subscription in, if you want to, just send 50 cents for each month's paper that you expect to get.

with 43 points. Low ladies, a blue ribbon, went to Cora Kushnerick of Calgary, while men's low score went to Paul Ritchie of the Red Deer Lodge. Cora Kushnerick was responsible for the smooth running of this event.

WINNERS IN THE DRAW —

The raffle draw was made Sunday for the three prizes: the black & white T.V. was won by Caroline MacArthur of Calgary; the stereo cassette by A.E. Moein of Rocky Mountain House; the cassette

player, by D. Wallace of Calgary. Money derived from the raffle went to help defray expenses.

Calgary Valhalla Lodge #341 members are to be complimented for a large job well done. The club, thanks to all its members, put on a grand show.

The next club winter games will be sponsored by the Edmonton Solglyt #143 Lodge in mid March 1982, and look forward to good fellowship, keen competition and sportsmanship.

FINLANDIA VODKA

Nordic Sun and Tropic Breeze



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Tropic Breeze
1 Part Finlandia Vodka
3 Parts Tomato juice
and a few dashes
of Tabasco | Nordic Sun
3,5 Parts Finlandia Vodka
1,5 Part Dry Vermouth
Shake with cracked
ice — add a slice of
lemon | On the Rocks
The pure taste of
Finlandia Vodka
is at its best in
this drink |
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